GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1351
ANSWERED ON:27.10.2008
ROTTEN FOODGRAINS
Singh Shri Prabhunath

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the number of starvation deaths reported in the country during the last three years and the current year,State-wise and year-wise;

(b) the total quantum of rotten foodgrains including rice and wheat lying in Food Corporation of India godowns at present and the manner in which the same is proposed to be disposed of;

(c) whether any study has been conducted to ascertain the reasons for foodgrains becoming unfit for human consumption;and

(d) if so,the details thereof?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS,FOOD & PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION(DR. AKHILESH PRASAD SINGH)

(a): No incident of starvation death has been reported by any State/Union Territory Government during last three years and current year.

(b): As reported by Food Corporation of India (FCI),no rotten foodgrains are there in FCI godowns at present.However,as on 01.10.2008,a quantity of 0.749 Lakh Metric Tons damaged foodgrains was in the godowns of FCI,which has accrued due to various reasons such as cyclones, floods and acceptance of some quantities below specifications and movement to other regions.

The disposal of damaged foodgrains is through the process of tender/auction and the above quantities are under process of disposal as per procedure for disposal of damaged foodgrains.

(c)&(d): Various Research Organizations such as CIPHET, Ludhiana, PAU, Ludhiana, IGMRI, Hapur and CFTRI, Mysore have been entrusted to undertake studies by FCI on various aspects of preservation of foodgrains.Based on such scientific research, guidelines have been formulated and are under implementation to preserve stocks of foodgrains with the FCI.